	Page 1
1	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
2	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
3	Case No. 08-13555-scc
4	x
5	In the Matter of:
6	
7	LEHMAN BROTHERS HOLDINGS, INC.,
8	
9	Debtors.
10	x
11	
12	United States Bankruptcy Court
13	One Bowling Green
14	New York, NY 10004
15	
16	June 3, 2020
17	10:01 AM
18	
19	
20	
21	BEFORE:
22	HON SHELLEY C. CHAPMAN
23	U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE
24	
25	ECRO: UNKNOWN

Page 2 HEARING re Doc #60448 Motion to Reserve for Motion to Reclassify, filed by Joseph Waske. HEARING re Doc #60448 Motion for Summary Judgment filed by Joseph Waske. Transcribed by: Sonya Ledanski Hyde 

```
Page 3
1
    APPEARANCES:
2
3
    WEIL GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP
4
         Attorneys for Debtors
5
         767 Fifth Avenue
         New York, NY 10153
6
7
8
    BY: GARRETT FAIL (TELEPHONICALLY)
9
10
    ALSO APPEARING TELEPHONICALLY:
11
12
    REX WU, Pro Se (TELEPHONICALLY)
13
    JOSEPH WASKE, Pro Se (TELEPHONICALLY)
14
    ANA LUCIA HURTADO (TELEPHONICALLY)
15
    CHRISTOPHER STAUBLE (TELEPHONICALLY)
16
    ELIZABETH HARRISON (TELEPHONICALLY)
17
    GLENN BRAZE (TELEPHONICALLY)
18
    CHRISTOPHER WHELAN (TELEPHONICALLY)
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

## PROCEEDINGS

THE COURT: Hello, good morning. This is Judge
Chapman. We're here this morning for an agenda of matters
in the Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc. case. This hearing is
being conducted entirely telephonically via the Court
Solutions application. It is being recorded. A transcript
of it will be created and made available to parties who
request it. In order to create an accurate transcript, I'm
requesting that anyone who speaks identify himself or
herself, and the party on whose behalf they are appearing,
and that you do so every time that you speak so that the
record can be accurate. I also would like to point out that
no private recordings of this hearing are permissible. I
would also ask that you keep your phones on mute unless you
are speaking.

I have an agenda that I've received as a matter scheduled for hearing today. I also have a roster of those who have dialed in to participate today. Mr. Fail, shall I start with you?

MR. FAIL: Good morning, Your Honor, Garrett Fail, Weil, Gotshal & Manges for Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc. as the Plan Administrator. Thank you for the Court's time this morning. I'm on the line.

THE COURT: Would you like to get us started?

MR. FAIL: I can, thank you, Your Honor. There

are a number of items on the agenda, all related. The first filed was a Motion to Reclassify filed by Mr. Joseph Waske. It's at ECF 60337. The Debtor, or the Plan Administrator filed an objection to this motion at ECF 60378. The next item on the agenda is a Motion for Reserve for the Motion to Reclassify, filed by Mr. Waske at 60448. The Plan Administrator objected to this motion at ECF 60482. Mr. Waske also filed a Motion for Summary Judgment related to the Motion for Reserve at 60484, and the plan administrator objected to that motion at docket number 60641.

Your Honor, I'll be brief in opening because the movant bears the burden. The Plan Administrator's positions are set forth in the objection. And as set forth in the objections, we believe each of the motions should be denied. It fails to state a basis for relief. Your Honor has addressed very similar questions before and found, in the way that the Plan Administrator asks that you find today, to deny the motions, including, most recently by motions filed by Mr. Rex Wu. I'm happy to answer any questions the Court may have now and if Your Honor permits, I'll reserve time to rebut or respond to anything that Mr. Waske has to say today.

THE COURT: All right, that makes sense, Mr. Fail.

Thank you very much. Mr. Waske, are you on the line, sir?

MR. WASKE: Yes. Good morning, Your Honor. This

is Joseph Waske. I'm on the line. I appreciate the opportunity to be heard.

THE COURT: Okay, go right ahead.

MR. WASKE: Yes, good morning, Your Honor. I wanted to start off by addressing the reason I'm here today. All of my motions, essentially, center around the prospectus contract language under the status of the guarantee, and under the prospectus' Important Covenant section. Within each of those specific sections, there are parent and senior affiliate equity rights, and additionally, payment stoppage rights across all subsidiaries that I argue -- I'm asking for the relief that placed the Capital Trusts Three, Four Five and Six, in parity with the parent, the affiliate and the subsidiary preference shares or equity shares. And, having said that, I guess I'll give up some time and possibly let the counsel for Lehman Brothers respond to that.

As far as the earlier objections, they do not address the affiliate parity guarantee, and there has been no response I have seen as far as the important covenant section granted within the prospectus, giving payment stoppage rights across all subsidiaries.

THE COURT: Mr. Waske, I have a question for you. When did you acquire your securities?

MR. WASKE: My first acquisition was prior to the

Page 7 1 Neuberger Berman spinoff, would have been in 2011, 2 approximately. 3 THE COURT: No, I mean the -- what you seek to have reclassified now. 4 5 MR. WASKE: That was my first acquisition and I've 6 had subsequent purchases since then, Your Honor. 7 THE COURT: Thank you. 8 MR. WASKE: Thank you. 9 THE COURT: Mr. Fail? 10 MR. FAIL: Thank you, Your Honor. For the record, 11 again, Garrett Fail, Weil Gotshal. 12 THE COURT: Mr. Fail, having called on you, let me 13 just make the overarching observation, Mr. Waske, you of 14 course have entirely ignored the fact that this is 2020, and 15 that there was an entire 12 years of a bankruptcy proceeding 16 before this, which is and has been conducted according to 17 the bankruptcy code, the bankruptcy rules and a series of court orders. And what you have done, is arrived at this 18 19 late date with a theory that you suggest that you first 20 became aware of in the context of a ruling this Court made 21 in 2019, and that, therefore, you now get to assert these 22 rights and make these requests. You also ignore the fact 23 that Mr. Wu made a similar series of arguments which were rejected by the Court. There are also, apparently, a number 24

of others who have filed joinders to the relief that you're

requesting. There's a very important -- there are competing concepts in the law that I'd like to remind you about. There's the concept of due process, very important; very important for folks to be able to be heard by a Court, to have their day in Court, and today's day in Court, oddly enough, is telephonically, but we go on. But there's also the concept of finality. It is impossible for arguments to continue to be permitted to be made over and over again, and to have expense and time be incurred addressing the same arguments over and over again. So, we're going to dispose of these arguments today, hopefully once and for all. But I'd like to point out to you that in moving directly to address what you view as the merits of your claim, which are incorrect on the merits, you have skipped over the many procedural impediments to your assertion of these arguments at this very, very late date. Mr. Fail, do you want to take it from here in terms of what the estate's responses are?

MR. FAIL: Thank you, Your Honor, I will. There were two points raise: one, breaches of covenants in either the prospectus or in the guarantee. Assuming that there is one and was one, it would give rise to a claim under the guarantee. But that guarantee was not a guarantee of payment or return of the investment. The guarantee was limited to certain circumstances if the trusts had money and

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

didn't pay through the money. So, that's one thing: it would not give rise to a claim, but more importantly, the status of subordination of the guarantee. The provision that Mr. Waske cites to and includes quotes of, provides that the guarantee will rank subordinate and junior to all other liabilities of Lehman Brothers Holdings. That's key.

The second sentence would apply, perhaps, in a bankruptcy. Or outside of bankruptcy, on parity with other preferred stock. But there's no question that it's subordinate to all other claims. The quarantee will be on parity with quarantees of other things, but there are none. There is nothing. Mr. Waske's pleadings is filled with words that are real words and concepts that are real concepts that have no applicability here. The fact that equity was created in the spinoff from the Neuberger Berman investment banking division, has nothing to do with what existed prior to the bankruptcy, and nothing to do with The fact that there's equity with value in the world this. doesn't matter here. The question is, if there was a guarantee claim for this, where would it rank? They're seeing to reclassify guarantee claim that exists from a subordinated status junior to all liabilities of Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc. as provided for in the guarantee and in the plan, to a higher pari passu with creditors. absolutely no basis whatsoever to do that.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

THE COURT: All right, thank you. Mr. Waske, is there anything you'd like to say?

MR. WASKE: Yes, Your Honor. I'd like to respond to some of the points that counsel for the estate brought up. Let me back up even a little further than that. I understand that it's a late date to file these claims. I honestly, as a holder of these securities, it's not very easy to find the information that other affiliate senior preference shares or subsidiary shares had received distributions, which would haver been a breach of the affiliate rights and a breach of the covenants.

Additionally, I did reach out to the Trustee to try and work through some of these issues and was provided kind of a boilerplate, while the Plan Administrator will make that determination and fund us if appropriate.

So, I did, I acknowledge that it's a late date.

But the fact that it's a long duration does not negate the fact that the rights were written into the prospectus as far as the affiliate parity rights, and the stoppage language on any payments across the 177 subsidiaries that Lehman had.

Those rights were granted to the security holders, the capital trust security holders, so long as the remained outstanding. And those --

THE COURT: Mr. Waske, you do understand that the indentured trustees of the capital trust filed global proofs

of claim. You do understand that, right?

MR. WASKE: I do, Your Honor. I do understand that, but the difference -- the issue is that we are not subordinate to any equity, any preference equity across the parent, an affiliate or any subsidiary. I guess I'll close -- can I say one more thing, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Sure. Of course.

MR. WASKE: Those rights were written in there, in the prospectus contract. They were provided to the security holder so long as they remain outstanding. The rights are there. I understand it's the Plan Administrator now. But the Plan Administrator is bound by those rights, even though that -- the fact that those -- the breach of those covenants and those rights, have not been honored, doesn't -- for a long duration, that long duration does not make it right.

THE COURT: I will say to you again that Lehman Brothers filed in 2008. It was, perhaps the most publicly known bankruptcy filing of all time. One needed to be in a cave to not know about this filing. The bar date was in 2009. This is 2020. It appears that folks have taken pages from various prospectuses and cobbled together these arguments and have determined to continue to create something where there is nothing. And it has caused the estate tremendous expense. I would have thought that after the disposition of Mr. Wu's claim, this wouldn't have

happened again, but it has. So, I'm prepared to give you a decision on all of your claims and all of your motions and all of your arguments, and the transcript of this decision will be incorporated into a ruling. We've had these documents for some time and I've had a chance to review them, and I've also seen the, what I would describe as cookie cutter joinder letters filed by various other persons.

So, I'm going to ask now if anybody else who has registered for this hearing, wishes to be heard. Mr. Wu, do you wish to be heard?

MR. WU: Yes, I do, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Go ahead.

MR. WU: Is today's hearing about the motions reclassified? I was under the impression it was only for the Motion for Reserve and the Motion for Summary Judgment.

THE COURT: Let me be perfectly clear. There's been a lot of back and forth with my chambers about what's on for hearing. You should all understand that even though Mr. Waske did not ask for hearing on that motion, I am going to dispose of all three motions. We are incorporating a ruling on that motion into the hearing today. They are all related. They are all seeking, in essence, the same relief. I am under no obligation to hold a hearing on any particular motion. It is within the Court's discretion to dispose of

Page 13 1 any filed motion on the papers without oral argument. 2 That's something that courts do all the time. So, I will be 3 ruling today on all three motions. Do you understand? MR. WU: Yes, Your Honor. May I comment on the 4 5 Neuberger Berman transaction? 6 THE COURT: I have no interest in your comments on 7 the Neuberger Berman transaction, Mr. Wu. 8 MR. WU: Why is that, Your Honor? 9 THE COURT: They have nothing whatsoever to do 10 with the matters that are before the Court today. 11 MR. WU: Yes, it does, Your Honor. It does. 12 THE COURT: Did you hear me say that I don't wish 13 to hear your comments on the Neuberger Berman transaction? 14 MR. WU: Yes, Your Honor. 15 THE COURT: Okay. And you have, other than being 16 an interested party, you're not a co-movant with Mr. Waske, 17 are you, Mr. Wu? 18 I filed a joinder, Your Honor. MR. WU: THE COURT: You filed a joinder, but you're not a 19 20 co-movant, correct? 21 MR. WU: Yes, Your Honor. 22 THE COURT: And you already had your motions ruled 23 on by this Court. Isn't that right? 24 MR. WU: Yes, Your Honor. I chose to file the 25 joinder.

Page 14 1 THE COURT: Right. But you have no motion that's 2 on for hearing today, correct? 3 MR. WU: No, Your Honor. I filed a joinder. THE COURT: And you have taken an appeal of this 4 5 Court's previous ruling on your motions, correct? 6 MR. WU: The Danny Ianello motion appeals was 7 dismissed by the Appellate Court based on his standing. Ιt 8 has nothing to do with the ruling. It did not rule on the 9 ruling, Your Honor. 10 THE COURT: So, you have nothing further pending 11 before this Court or any other court? 12 MR. WU: Except for this joinder, no, Your Honor. 13 THE COURT: All right, thank you. Anything else from Mr. Fail or anyone else? Okay, I'm going to read a --14 15 yes? 16 MR. FAIL: I was going to say nothing from our 17 side. Thank you. THE COURT: All right. If you would bear with me, 18 19 this will take a few moments. And as I said, at the 20 conclusion of this bench ruling, I'll ask that an order be 21 prepared and circulated that will incorporate the ruling. 22 Before the Court are three motions filed by Mr. 23 Joseph Waske. One, Motion to Reclassify, which appears at 24 docket number 60337, and two related motions: a Motion for 25 Reserve, docket number 60448, and a Motion for Summary

Judgment, docket number 60484.

Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., or LBHI, as plan administrator, has timely objected to each of the motions. See docket numbers 63078, 60482 and 60641. Various individuals have filed letters supporting or joining in Mr. Waske's Motion to Reclassify. They are Mr. Rex Wu, docket numbers 60348, 60400; Alex Olivo, docket number 60354; Elizabeth Harrison, docket number 60379; Glen Braze, docket number 60381; Jeffrey Wood, docket number 60478; Brian Lindsay, docket number 60479, and Alvin Wilson, docket number 60645. Mr. Waske has submitted replies to the Plan Administrator's objection. See docket number 60403, 60542, 60642.

The reasons that follow, and as previously discussed on the record of this hearing, Mr. Waske's motions must be denied.

The crux of Mr. Waske's arguments are as follows:
Mr. Waske supports to own shares in LBHI Capital Trust
three, four, five and six; the Trusts. He asserts that the
trustee for these trusts has not properly asserted the
rights of the trust; namely, by enforcing a certain
guarantee against LBHI. Mr. Waske argues that events that
occurred after confirmation of the LBHI plan make the
guarantee now, quote, unquote, enforceable. He seems to
believe that the omnibus claims filed by the trustee for

each of these trusts, should be reclassified because of this
now allegedly enforceable guarantee. He believes that this
reclassification would result in a distribution to holders
of shares in these capital trusts. Mr. Waske also asserts
that he relies upon the existence of the guarantee and, in
part, upon this Court's ruling on June 19, 2019, when
subsequently purchasing his shares in the trust. The Motion
to Reclassify seeks to reclassify the trust's global claims
into class four of the plan of reorganization: the Motion to
Reclassify at page four. The Motion for Reserve seeks an
order from this Court requiring that the plan administrator
reserve approximately \$71 million to satisfy the potential
claims of Mr. Waske and those parties who have filed
joinders to his Motion to Reclassify; the Motion for Reserve
at page ten and Exhibit D. The Motion for Summary Judgment
seeks immediate entry of an order granting the Motion for
Reserve because, according to Mr. Waske, the Plan
Administrator failed to object to the motion within the
deadline provided in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,
see Motion for Summary Judgment, page two.
The joinders were filed by individuals who appear

The joinders were filed by individuals who appear to be similarly situated to Mr. Waske. They largely repeat Mr. Waske's argument.

The Plan Administrator objects to Mr. Waske's motions and ask that they be denied with prejudice.

With respect to the Motion to Reclassify, the Plan Administrator notes correctly that the time for seeking this relief has long been past. The bar date for filing claims in the Lehman Chapter 11 cases was September 22, 2009, docket number 4271. Indeed, the indentured trustees of Capital Trust Three, Four, Five and Six, timely filed global proofs of claim on behalf of the trust. See claim numbers 21805, 22122, 22123 and 67753. These claims were classified in LBHI class 10B under the Lehman plan, docket number 22973 at section 4.14. As described in the relevant prospectuses, the only assets of these trusts was subordinated debt. class of claim, like other classes of subordinated debt against LBHI was not expected to receive any recovery under the Lehman Plan and, indeed, it has not. See disclosure statement, docket number 19629 at page 85. This Court entered an order confirming the Lehman Plan on December 6, 2011, docket number 23023.

The Plan Administrator further argues that even if the time to file claims or object to the plan classification, has not long since passed, there is simply no basis for reclassifying the claims of the trust. The Plan Administrator is correct: The holders of shares in the capital trust have no right to file proofs of claim. That right is held by the indentured trustees who properly filed such claims in a timely fashion. The trusts hold only

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

subordinated claims. The guarantee identified by Mr. Waske is likewise subordinated and is not entitled to any distribution.

As I noted during the hearing earlier today, this
Court previously denied a similar motion filed by Mr. Rex
Wu, one of the individuals who has filed a joinder to the
motion here. While it is clear that Mr. Waske's motions
likewise failed on the merits, it is unnecessary for the
Court to reiterate what it has already said about those
arguments today and in previous rulings. The time for Mr.
Waske to file a proof of claim has long since passed. The
time for Waske to object to the reclassification of claims
under the plan have long since passed. It is time for these
arguments to cease being made and for the resources of this
estate to not have to be deployed in order to address what
this Court considers to be these frivolous arguments.

With respect to the timing, Bankruptcy Rule 3030(c)(3) requires that the Bankruptcy Court establish a deadline for filing poofs of claim in a chapter 11 case. Claims filed after the bar date shall be disallowed. A bar date is, quote, critically important to the administration of a chapter 11 case as it is intended to be a mechanism providing the debtor and its creditors with finality. See Enron Creditors Recovery Corporation, 3070 Bankruptcy 90 at 94, Bankruptcy SDNY 2007. A bar date allows the parties in

a bankruptcy case to identify the universe of claims and claimants in a reasonably prompt fashion, which is a necessary step of achieving the goals of a successful reorganization. See First Fidelity Bank NA versus Hooker Investments, In re Hooker, 937 F.2d 833, 840, Second Circuit 1991. The bar date is not merely a procedural gauntlet; It's an integral part of the reorganization process designed to serve the efficient and fair administration of bankruptcy cases. See, In re Lehman Brothers Holdings, 433, Bankruptcy 113, Bankruptcy SDNY 2010, affirmed 445 Bankruptcy 137, SDNY 2011.

Bankruptcy courts do have discretion to enlarge the time to file claims where the failure to file was the result of excusable neglect. See Bankruptcy Rule 906(b)(1). This is, at its core, an equitable determination. Four factors determine are considered when analyzing excusable neglect. They are: one, the danger of prejudice to the debtor; two, the length of the delay and its potential impact on judicial proceedings; three, the reason for the delay, including whether it was in the reasonable control of the movant, and four, whether the movant acted in good faith. See Pioneer Investment Services Company versus Brunswick Associates LP, 507 US 380 at 395, 1993.

The parties seeking an extension of time bears the burden of proving excusable neglect. In re Enron

Corporation. 419, F3d, 115, 121, Second Circuit 2005.

In these cases in particular, enforcing the bar date is of extreme importance. In 2010, ten years ago, in denying several motions to allow late file claims in these cases, then presiding Judge Peck reasoned that allowing the filing of late claims would expose the debtors to the risk of a virtually never-ending claims resolution process.

Particularly in the context of these enormously complex cases, the bar date order needs to be uniformly enforced except in truly unusual and compelling circumstances. In Re Lehman Brothers Holdings, 433 Bankruptcy at 127.

Mr. Waske does not provide any reason for seeking to lodge a claim against the Lehman Estate, more than a decade after the claim's bar date, let alone a reason that might constitute excusable neglect. He implies that certain recent events have provided another reason why he thinks he ought to be able to file a claim. This does not, in any way, change the analysis, nor does the subsequent purchase of claims in a bankruptcy proceeding. As held by the Court in Enron Corporation, the purchase of claims in a bankruptcy proceeding should not grant a transferee any greater rights than the transferor had. See In re Enron Corporation 2005, Westlaw 383, 2053 at star 14, Bankruptcy, Southern District of New York, November 28, 2005.

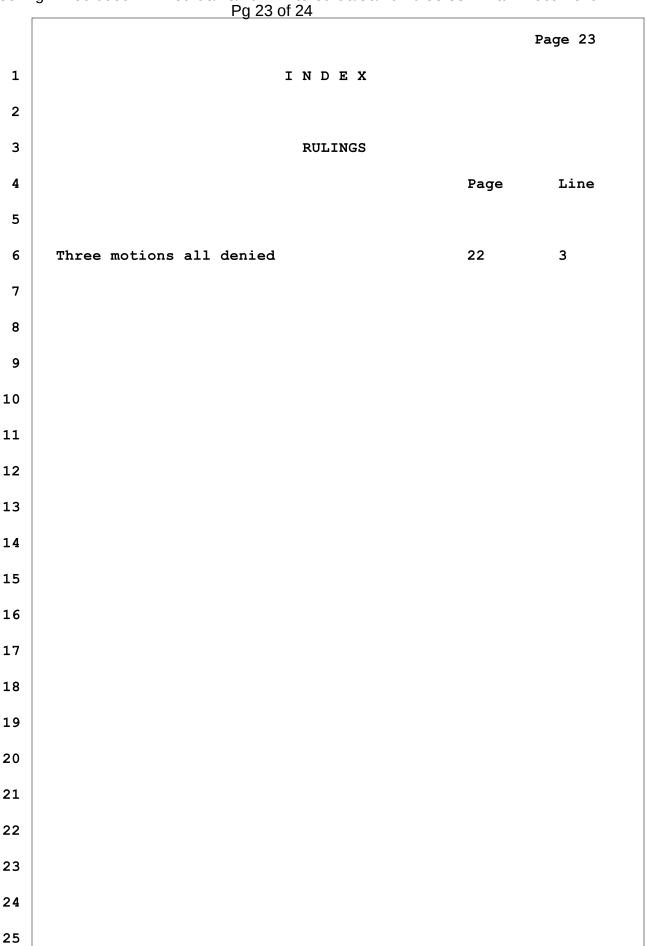
The lateness of this request, as I've said, is all

the more inexcusable as it comes years after the confirmation of the Lehman Chapter 11 plan. The claims of the trust were treated under the Lehman plan as class 10(b) claims. Mr. Waske now seeks to reclassify these claims as class four claims. It bears noting that Mr. Waske is not a plan proponent and, indeed, has no standing to seek to modify the Lehman Plan at all, let alone at this late date. See 11 USC, Section 1127(b), In re Boylan International Limited, 452 Bankruptcy 43 at 48, Bankruptcy SDNY 2011.

While a plan proponent may seek to modify the plan if, for example, unforeseen circumstances render the confirmed plan unworkable, modifications that accept the expectation of creditors should be prohibited. See Boylan International, 452 Bankruptcy at 50. Confirmation of a plan is the equivalent of a final judgment in the civil litigation. Section 1127, it reinforces the principal of finality by preserving the rights bought and paid for under the plan. In re Rickel & Associates, 260 Bankruptcy, 673, at 677, Bankruptcy SDNY 2001.

Simply put, Mr. Waske has not standing to seek to modify the Lehman plan to change the classification of the trust claims from class 10(b) to class four. Indeed, even if he did have standing, such a modification would severely upset the expectation of creditors and would not be warranted. For these reasons, and the reasons discussed in

Page 22 1 the oppositions filed by the Plan Administrator and as 2 previously described by the Court on this record, the three 3 motions filed by Mr. Waske are all denied. 4 All right, Mr. Fail, I would ask that you 5 circulate an appropriate order and circulate it to Mr. Waske 6 and send it to chambers for us to enter. 7 MR. FAIL: Thank you, Your Honor, we will. And thank you and your chambers for the time this morning and 8 9 leading up to it. 10 THE COURT: Thank you. This concludes the 11 hearing. Thank you all for participating. Everybody please 12 stay safe. 13 MR. WASKE: Thank you, Your Honor. Thank you, Mr. 14 Fail. 15 MR. WU: Thank you. 16 MR. FAIL: Thank you. 17 18 (Whereupon these proceedings were concluded at 10:37 AM) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25



Page 24 1 CERTIFICATION 2 3 I, Sonya Ledanski Hyde, certified that the foregoing 4 transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. 5 Sonya M. Ledandi Hyd 6 7 8 Sonya Ledanski Hyde 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 Veritext Legal Solutions 21 330 Old Country Road 22 Suite 300 23 Mineola, NY 11501 24 25 Date: June 23, 2020